



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest
Service

Manti-La Sal
National Forest

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Copy Wayne, Steve D.
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File Code: 2820-4
Date: March 16, 2006

Dear Forest User:

DIV. OF OIL, GAS & MINING

PacifiCorp has submitted an application to lease approximately 213 acres on the Manti-La Sal National Forest, along the west boundary of the Mill Fork State Coal Lease ML-48258, which is a part of the Deer Creek Mine permit area. The proposed tract is called the Mill Fork West Extension Tract, located in T 16 S, R 6 E, S.L.B. & M.:

Section 10: S2NE4NE4, SE4NE4, W2E2SE4

Section 15: E2W2E2

Section 22: Lot 3

The Forest Supervisor, Manti-La Sal National Forest, must decide whether to consent to the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) issuing the lease. The Forest Service and BLM will jointly conduct an environmental analysis to evaluate the effects of the proposed action. PacifiCorp has applied for this lease because new mining and seismic data indicate the Joes Valley Fault is located further west than originally thought. These new data may allow extending several longwall panels to the west, enabling recovery of approximately two million tons of additional coal without affecting surface resources. The coal would be mined through the Deer Creek Mine with no need for additional surface disturbance. If the coal is bypassed it would be uneconomical for future mining.

The public is invited to comment on our proposed action. Only those who submit timely and substantive comments will be accepted as appellants. Substantive comments are those within the scope of, are specific to, and have a direct relationship to the proposed action, and include supporting reasons that the Responsible Officials should consider in reaching a decision. Each individual or representative from each organization, submitting substantive comments must either sign the comments or otherwise verify identity in order to attain appeal eligibility. Comments received, including names and addresses of those who comment, will be considered part of the public record for this project and will be available for public inspection. Comments should include the information required pursuant to 36 CFR 215.6(a)(3), as published in the Federal Register on June 4, 2003.

Please send written comments to Alice B. Carlton, Forest Supervisor, Manti-La Sal National Forest, 599 West Price River Drive, Price, Utah 84501; phone (435) 637-2817; e-mail: comments-intermtn-manti-lasal-ferron-price@fs.fed.us. E-mailed comments must be submitted in MS Word (*.doc) or rich text format (*.rtf). Comments may also be delivered to the above address during regular business hours of 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Monday-Friday, excluding federal holidays. Comments should be received on or before April 15, 2006. Questions concerning the proposed action should be directed to Karl Boyer or Dale Harber at (435) 637-2817.

Sincerely,

ALICE B. CARLTON
Forest Supervisor

